

From: James Preston [mailto:jp@mcn.org]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2006 3:53 PM
To: mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: dan@mcn.org; art@montereyabalone.com
Subject: MLPAComments: MLBA Central Coast Project - Candidate MPA Package 1
To Whom it May Concern:

I, Dan Yoakum, am currently the advisor for the Herring Roe On Kelp (HEOK) fishery in the San Francisco Bay. I am supporting the adaption of MLPA Candidate MPA Package 1 (Proposal 1) for the following reasons:

1. The HEOK permittees harvest kelp annually in the Monterey-Carmel area for use in the fishery. This kelp area is most conveniently located to San Francisco Bay and, I believe necessary to cost-effectively sustain the HEOK fishery.

2. The amount of kelp, which is only harvested between the months of December thru March, is relatively small and therefore of little if any consequence to the marine coastal environment in the Monterey-Carmel area. The maximum potential kelp harvest is approximately 180 tons, if all ten permittees participate. (10 Permittees X 9 Herring Spawns X 2 tons kelp harvested per spawn = 180 tons) Historically speaking, we have never harvested this maximum amount.

3. Since our harvest occurs primarily during the storm season, sometimes the kelp is broken loose by long-period swells in excess of 20 feet by 15 seconds, and subsequently washed ashore. On one occasion, all of the floating attached kelp, with the exception of five stipes found in front of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, were beached by the storm swells. When conditions become favorable, the kelp returns in abundance.

4. The harvesting process is conducted with a conscious effort to avoid any and all negative impact to the marine environment.

In conclusion, I would like restate my support for the Candidate MPA Package 1, as I believe it is a compromise including both environmental concerns and sustainable fishing. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, Dan Yoakum (HEOK Advisor)